

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 07760 071011Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----072358Z 070537 /63

R 061345Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4809  
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 7760

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR  
SUBJECT: KERMIT ROOSEVELT VISIT

REF: (A) STATE 99550 (NOTAL), (B) AMMAN 2454 (NOTAL)

1. KERMIT ROOSEVELT VISITED EGYPT MAY 2-6. BECAUSE  
SADAT WAS IN ALEXANDRIA AND WILL NOT RETURN TO CAIRO  
UNTIL TODAY, HE WAS UNABLE TO MEET WITH THE PRESIDENT.

HE DID, HOWEVER, LEAVE A LETTER WITH PRESIDENCY OFFICIAL  
FOR SADAT ON HIS IDEA OF PRIVATE ARAB-ISRAELI MEETING.

2. AS ROOSEVELT EXPLAINED IT TO ME, JERUSALEM MAYOR  
TEDDY KOLLEK HAD PROPOSED THE IDEA OF AN INFORMAL,  
CONFIDENTIAL MEETING BETWEEN PRIVATE ISRAELI AND ARAB FIGURES TO  
DISCUSS "MAJOR POSSIBILITIES AND MAJOR PROBLEMS" OF ARAB-  
ISRAELI PEACE. TIME AND VENUE WOULD HAVE TO BE DETERMINED.  
ROOSEVELET WAS NOT SURE FOR WHOM KOLLEK WAS PEAKING IN  
MAKING SUGGESTION AND STRONGLY HINTED AT HIS OWN  
AVAILABILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH MEETING IF THE  
PARTIES WISHED. ASKED FOR SPECIFICS OF WHAT MIGHT  
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BE DISCUSSED AT SUCH MEETING, ROOSEVELT WAS VAGUE,  
BUT THOUGH KOLLEK'S CONTONALIZATION PLAN FOR  
JERUSLAME MIGHT BE ONE SUBJECT.

3. ROOSEVELENT'S LETTER TO SADAT OUTLINES ABOVE AND  
INDICATES WILLINGNESS TO HELP DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY.  
IT ALSO ASSERTS FORMAL MEETING MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO

EXPLORE SOME OF THE PROBLEMS, HENCE THE IDEA OF AN INFORMAL MEETING. ROOSEVELT INFERS THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S RECENT COMMENTS TO PRESIDENT HUSSEIN SUGGEST OUR PRESIDENT MAY FEEL SAME WAY. ON ARAB SIDE, DELEGATES WOULD BE THOSE CHOSEN BY SADAT AND PRINCE FAHD. LETTER CONCLUDES BY ASKING SADAT TO CABLE HIM REACTIONS BY MAY 7, C/O PRINCE FAHD IN RIYADH.

4. I TOLD ROOSEVELT THAT DIRECT DIALOGUE BETWEEN ARABS AND ISRAELIS ALWAYS DESIRABLE, BUT I PERSONALLY DOUBTED SADAT WOULD BE INTERESTED. FOR ONE THING, SADAT WILL WONDER FOR WHOM KOLLEK SPEAKS AND WHAT UTILITY SUCH PRIVATE MEETING WILL HAVE. FOR ANOTHER, IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE SADAT TAKING POLITICAL RISK OF SUCH MEETING WITHOUT SYRIAN AGREEMENT OR PARTICIPATION. MOREOVER, SADAT'S PAST EXPERIENCE MAKES HIM WELL AWARE THAT ISRAELIS ARE LIKELY TO LEAK NEWS OF SUCH A MEETING, WHICH WOULD CAUSE HIM POLITICAL EMBARRASSMENT AT HOME AND ABROAD. ALSO, KNOWING PRINCE FAHD, I DOUBTED THAT HE WOULD FAVOR IDEA. NOR DID I THINK PROMOTING DISCUSSION OF KOLLEK'S CANTONALIZATION IDEA AT THIS TIME WAS WISE. IT IS LIKELY TO BE REJECTED BY ARABS, WHICH WOULD MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO CONSIDER SUCH CONCEPT, SHOULD IT BE RAISED, AT SOME FUTURE TIME. FINALLY, IN MY VIEW, SADAT WANTS TO GO TO GENEVA THIS YEAR AND WILL NOT BE ATTRACTED BY PRIVATE MEETINGS OF THE TYPE SUGGESTED.

5. ROOSEVELET ACKNOWLEDGED THESE POINTS, BUT SAID HE  
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FELT OBLIGATED PRESENT KOLLEK'S PROPOSAL ANYWAY. I TOLD HIM THIS WAS A MATTER FOR HIM TO DECIDE, BUT ID DID NOT WISH TO BE IN A POSITION OF ARRANGING MEETING WITH SADAT WHICH WOULD MAKE LATTER SUSPECT THAT ROOSEVELET SPEAKING WITH USG ENDORSEMENT.  
EILTS

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Subject:** KERMIT ROOSEVELT VISIT  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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